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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : David P. Wilkinson et al.
Application No. : 10/072,813
Filed : February 8, 2002
For : ELECTROCHEMICAL FUEL CELL WITH AN ELECTRODE
HAVING AN IN-PLANE NONUNIFORM STRUCTURE

Art Unit : 1745
Docket No. : 130109.447C1
Date : June 6, 2002

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97 through 1.98, applicants wish to make known to the Patent and Trademark Office the references set forth on the attached Form PTO-1449 (copies of the cited references are enclosed). As to any reference supplied, applicants do not admit that it is "prior art" under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 or 103, and specifically reserve the right to traverse or antedate any such reference, as by a showing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or other method.

Reference AJ, on the attached Form PTO-1449, is written in Japanese. Accordingly, the Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to Reference AO, which sets forth an English language abstract.

Reference AK, on the attached Form PTO-1449, is written in Japanese. Accordingly, the Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to References AP and AQ, which are English language translations.

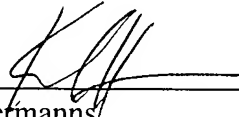
Although the aforesaid references are made known to the Patent and Trademark Office in compliance with applicants' duty to disclose all information they are aware of which is believed relevant to the examination of the above-identified application, applicants believe that their invention is patentable.

Please acknowledge receipt of this Information Disclosure Statement and kindly make the cited references of record in the above-identified application.

Respectfully submitted,

David P. Wilkinson et al.

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Enclosures:

Form PTO-1449

Cited References (11)

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Application No: GB 9718153.1
Claims searched: All claims

Examiner: A.R.Martin
Date of search: 15 October 1997

Patents Act 1977
Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK CI (Ed.O): H1B

Int CI (Ed.6): H01M 4/00

Other: On line databases WPI,EDOC,JAPIO

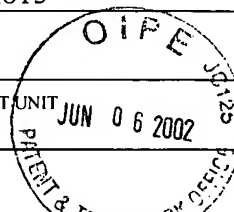
Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
A	WO 97/08766 A Ballard see claim 1	Claims 1 and 12 at least
A	WO 94/25268 A Hyperion see page 3 lines 1-3 page 4 lines 1-10	"
A	WO 85/00697 A United Technologies see claim 1	"
A	EP 0106603 A Enelhard see claim 4	"

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.

FORM PTO-1449
(REV.7-80)U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICEATTY. DOCKET NO.
130109.447C1APPLICATION NO.
10/072,813**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

(Use several sheets if necessary)

APPLICANTS
David P. Wilkinson et al.FILING DATE
February 8, 2002GROUP ART UNIT
1745**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	5,702,839	12/30/97	Frost et al.	429	42	
	AB	5,840,438	11/24/98	Johnson et al.	429	30	
	AC	5,958,613	09/28/99	Hamada et al.	429	26	
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	TRANSLATION	
					YES	NO
	AI	GB 2316802	03/04/98	United Kingdom		
	AJ	JP 10-92439	04/10/98	Japan (+ English Abstract)		X
	AK	JP 3-222261	10/01/91	Japan (+ English Abstract)		X
	AL					

OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AN	Derwent WPI Accession No. 1998-123288/199812, March 4, 1998.
	AO	English Abstract of Japanese Patent No. JP 10-92439, April 10, 1998.
	AP	English Abstract of Japanese Patent No. JP 3-222261, October 1, 1991.
	AQ	English Translation of Japanese Patent No. 3-222261, October 1, 1991.
	AR	St-Pierre et al., "Advanced Water Management Techniques For Solid Polymer Fuel Cells," <i>New Materials For Fuel Cell and Modern Battery System II: Proceedings of the 2nd International Symposium on New Materials for Fuel Cell and Modern Battery Systems II</i> , Publisher: Ecole Polytechnique de Montreal, O. Savadogo and P.R. Roberge (eds.), Montreal, Quebec, Canada, July 6-10, 1997, pp. 318-329.
	AS	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not criteria is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant(s).